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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/506,834	09/07/2004	Keith Baker	NL 020228	8929

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EXAMINER

JANKUS, ALMIS R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2672

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/506,834

Applicant(s)

BAKER, KEITH

Examiner

Almis R. Jankus

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2672

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-9 are presented for examination.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Abe et al.

With respect to claim 1, Abe et al. teach the claimed first receiving means for receiving a first video signal representing a first series of consecutive input images, at figure 5, item 121; second receiving means for receiving a second video signal representing a second series of consecutive input images, at figure 5 item 111; and a display device for displaying a third series of consecutive output images which are based on the first series of consecutive input images and the second series of consecutive input images, characterized in that the image display apparatus is arranged: to split the images of the first series of consecutive input images into first parts and respective second parts, at

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figure 5 item 122 which splits an image into a display image, as in figure 6A, the right image, and a blank zone, which is shown at figure 6a as the shaded area at top and bottom; to split the images of the second series of consecutive input images into third parts and respective fourth parts, at figure 5 item 112, which splits the images into the left image of figure 6a, and can utilize the blank zone to display text and graphics, as shown at figure 6B; and to display a first one of the output images comprising a first block of pixels corresponding to a first one of the first parts and a second block of pixels corresponding to a first one of the fourth parts, at figure 6F and at column 9 lines 32-35.

Claim 2 further requires that the fourth parts correspond to respective portions of a banner. Abe et al. teaches this at column 5 line 45 as a sequence of characters.

Banners comprise a sequence of characters. Also, at lines 65-66 Abe et al. teaches advertising information.

Claim 3 further requires that the fourth parts correspond to a subtitle. Abe et al. teaches this at column 13 lines 4-6.

Claim 4 further requires the user interface means to provide location information of the fourth parts to control splitting of the images of the second series of consecutive input images. Abe et al. teaches this at column 9 lines 40-65 with "FIG. 7A shows images that may be displayed on the screen. If the viewer specifies the teletext/data transmission mode by means of the remote control unit 150, an image of characters and graphics as

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shown in FIG. 7B may be displayed on the entire screen. If he or she then specifies a mixed mode of displaying both the proper program and the characters and graphics of the corresponding teletext/data transmission, images as shown in FIG. 7C may appear on the screen, where part of the characters and graphics being displayed are replaced by the images of the proper program, the remainder being displayed in the upper and lower blank zones. This mixed display mode has the following advantage of showing a catch phrase and the program provider in the blank zones so that the viewer may be induced to select the teletext/data transmission mode to see the image of FIG. 7B if he or she is watching the proper program. Additionally, the image memory for storing characters and graphics may be used in the following way. That is, characters and graphics can be dimensionally enlarged or reduced at will. While FIG. 8A shows the ordinary font size for characters to be displayed in the blank zone, a larger or smaller font may be used for them as shown in FIG. 8B. Additionally, characters and graphics on the blank zones may be scrolled up or down for updating as shown in FIG. 8C, and at column 11 lines 14-51 with "FIG. 13A is a view of the screen of a television receiving set according to the invention, having an aspect ratio of 4:3, when it receives a signal in the letter box format to produce upper and lower blank zones on the screen. Assume that a weather forecast is being transmitted as a teletext and the viewer selects the ordinary teletext mode. Then, the upper and lower blank zones are put together and placed on the bottom of the screen to move the image of the proper program to the top as shown in FIG. 13D so that a plurality of character lines are displayed for the weather forecast in the unified blank zone. If the viewer selects a character enlarging mode, the

characters are enlarged as shown in FIG. 13B. Then, the characters are scrolled laterally to show the full text. Alternatively, the unified teletext may be placed on the top of the screen to push down the image of the proper program. To realize the above display, the teletext/data transmission decoder 141 receives data on the phase of the blank zone from the blank zone location regulating section 302 and determines the timing for producing the data on the characters and graphics to be displayed. More specifically, the CPU 27 shown in FIG. 4 receives a synchronizing signals for displaying images before it recognizes the current status of the screen and, at the same time, it also receives data on the phase of the blank zone to determine the timing for reading the data out of an output memory. An interface is arranged so that the counted number of scanning lines is taken into the data on the phase. The timing for producing signals is determined on the basis of the counted number and the data on the current operational status (data concerning if the upper or lower position is specified for the blank zone) coming from the main controller 151. If the location of displaying characters is predetermined, the timing for producing signals may be determined solely on the basis of the data on the current operational status (data concerning if the upper or lower position is specified for the blank zone) coming from the main controller 151".

Claim 5 further requires a first memory device for storage of the location information. Abe et al. teaches this at column 10 line 66 to column 11 line 13 with "The blank zone location regulating section 302 detects a television signal in the letter box format (signal for providing upper and lower blank zones) and, if it receives a command for combining

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the upper and lower blank zones and placing them on the top or the bottom of the screen, positionally regulates the blank zones according to the command, using an image memory 303. The signal that has been subjected to this regulation (brightness/color difference signal) is converted into an RGB signal by an RGB converter 311 and then fed to an synthesizing section 312".

Claim 6 further requires a scaling means to scale the first parts. Abe et al. teach this at figure 5 item 142.

Claim 7 further requires a processing means to assign a new color value to a first pixel of the second block of pixels on basis of an original color value of the first pixel. Abe et al. teach this at column 10 lines 45-51.

Claim 8 is a method claim which corresponds directly with apparatus claim 1. The rationale applied for the rejection of claim 1 applies to claim 8 as well.


Claim 9 further requires a TV comprising an image display apparatus according to claim 1. Abe et al. teaches this at figure 1.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Almis R. Jankus whose telephone number is 571-272-7643. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Razavi can be reached on 571-272-7664. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AJ



ALMIS R. JANKUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER